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Legislative Alert: Thank You to Patrick Leahy

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Legislative Alert: Thank You to Patrick Leahy

Abstract

[Excerpt] On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I want to thank you for holding a hearing on "Targeting Websites Dedicated to Stealing American Intellectual Property." This hearing demonstrates that, despite being unfairly attacked for introducing S.3804, the "Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act" (COICA) in the last Congress, you remain appropriately focused on combating the torrent of digital theft that robs U.S. jobs while threatening the health and safety of U.S. citizens. American workers greatly appreciate the courage and leadership you have once again displayed.

Keywords

AFL-CIO, Legislative Alert, Thank You to Patrick Leahy

Comments

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

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PRESIDENT

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EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

(202) 637-5057

February 15, 2011

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I want to thank you for holding a hearing on "Targeting Websites Dedicated to Stealing American Intellectual Property." This hearing demonstrates that, despite being unfairly attacked for introducing S.3804, the "Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act" (COICA) in the last Congress, you remain appropriately focused on combating the torrent of digital theft that robs U.S. jobs while threatening the health and safety of U.S. citizens. American workers greatly appreciate the courage and leadership you have once again displayed.

This Congress must pass legislation to provide more effective tools against "rogue websites" operated by unscrupulous individuals who use the Internet as a platform to sell counterfeit and pirated goods. As you know, many of these rogue websites look legitimate and have become increasingly sophisticated in both design and operation. They deceive consumers into believing they are legitimate, threaten American jobs, and as we have seen with the recent instances of fake products such as toothpaste, pharmaceuticals and auto parts, represent a severe health and safety risk to U.S. citizens. This hearing will help Congress decide which additional tools would be most appropriate and effective for combating such "rogue websites."

The AFL-CIO will stand by you as you try to halt the destruction of American jobs by rogue websites. Last fall, more than a dozen unions and guilds, representing hundreds of thousands of workers in industries ranging from entertainment to firefighting, wrote you in support of S. 3804. I assure you that these unions and guilds were not outliers; the labor community as a whole understands that digital intellectual property (IP) theft affects not only jobs in the entertainment industry, where lost profits in music and motion picture production put tens of thousands of good-paying jobs at risk, but also jobs in manufacturing, such as pharmaceuticals, apparel, luxury goods, and auto parts. In all, counterfeiting and piracy of intellectual property has an impact on millions of American workers in IP-sensitive industries.

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
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We thank you again for your efforts to fight for workers and their families, and to protect both their jobs and their safety. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your Senate colleagues to enact COICA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Samuel', written in a cursive style.

William Samuel, Director
Government Affairs Department